

# WHAT'S *New*



in the Metropolitan Police Department

*A weekly update for residents, visitors, and  
workers in the District of Columbia*

*Friday, April 14, 2006*

## CHIEF RAMSEY ANNOUNCES COMMAND PERSONNEL, ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES

Chief Ramsey has elevated the role of homeland security and counterterrorism efforts in the MPDC and made a number of other organizational and Command-level personnel changes, in an effort to strengthen the MPDC and streamline operations. The Chief has moved the MPDC's Office of Homeland Security from the Special Operations Division (SOD) to the Office of the Chief. Commander Cathy Lanier, formerly head of SOD, has been put in charge of Homeland Security, where she will manage the MPDC's counterterrorism plans, policies and training, as well as coordination with federal and regional authorities. Commander Robert Contee, formerly of the Second District, is the new head of Special Operations. Organizationally, SOD has been moved from the Operational Support Command to the Office of Security Services, headed by Assistant Chief Gerald Wilson. In addition, the Traffic Safety and Special Enforcement Branch has become part of SOD. Inspector Andrew Solberg has been named acting commander of 2D, and Inspector Kevin Keegan, who formerly oversaw Traffic Safety and Mobile Force operations, has replaced Solberg as commanding officer of the First District substation (1D-1).

- ① Names, addresses and phone numbers of major MPDC units can be found at:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1230,q,537834,mpdcNav\\_GID,1523,mpdcNav,131417|.asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1230,q,537834,mpdcNav_GID,1523,mpdcNav,131417|.asp)

## OFFICERS OF THE MONTH FOR APRIL ARE HONORED

While New Year's is a time for celebration, in DC and other cities the dangerous practice of firing weapons in the air to ring in the new year has become all too common. This year, Sergeant Darris Larsen was working the midnight tour of duty in the Seventh District and monitoring a radio run for a man with a gun in the 3200 block of 22nd Street, SE. Sergeant Larsen responded to the area and began an immediate canvass for the suspect, when he heard multiple gunshots coming from the 1900 block of Ridgcrest Court, SE. The sergeant went to investigate and near the end of the block, observed a man running southbound and holding a gun in his right hand. Sergeant Larsen immediately began pursuing the suspect on foot, voicing loud commands for the subject to stop and drop the weapon. Eventually, the subject did drop the weapon — a .380 handgun — but continued to run, making good his escape. Just moments later, as Sergeant Larsen was recovering the .380 handgun, he looked up the sidewalk and saw a second subject running directly at him with a sawed-off shotgun in his hands. Sergeant Larsen voiced several loud commands for the subject to drop the weapon. The individual dropped the shotgun and tried to run past Sergeant Larsen, but he able to stop the subject and safely bring him under control without incident. The suspect was charged with National Firearms Act, Unregistered Firearm and Unregistered Ammunition. For his outstanding police work in single-handedly recovering two firearms and arresting a dangerous suspect within a matter of minutes on one of the most challenging nights of the year, Sergeant Darris Larsen was recently honored during the monthly CHAMPS Awards luncheon. He was one of 16 MPDC members who were publicly recognized for their noteworthy, often heroic service to the community.

- ① Read about all of the officers of the month at:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1234,q,559786,mpdcNav\\_GID,1544.asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1234,q,559786,mpdcNav_GID,1544.asp)
- ① CHAMPS (Capital Hotels Award Metropolitan Police Service) is a monthly awards program sponsored by the Hotel Association of Washington, DC. The April awards luncheon was hosted by the Grand Hyatt Washington Hotel in Northwest.
- ① Members of the public are invited to submit commendations for outstanding MPDC officers anytime, using the online form:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1241,q,548642,mpdcNav\\_GID,1523,mpdcNav,|.asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1241,q,548642,mpdcNav_GID,1523,mpdcNav,|.asp)

## NEW OFFICERS — RECRUITS AND RESERVES — HITTING THE STREETS OF DC

A total of 47 new officers are hitting the streets of DC — 17 of them as fully sworn members of the MPDC, the other 30 as volunteer Reserve Officers. Graduation ceremonies for both groups were held Friday afternoon at the Town Hall Education Arts and Recreation Campus (THE ARC) in Southeast. The 17 new sworn officers completed approximately 24 weeks of recruit training, focusing on DC law, MPDC policies and procedures, community policing, weapons skills and physical fitness. The new officers are being assigned to neighborhood patrols in Police Services Areas throughout DC. The new volunteer officers are considered “Level II” Reserves, meaning that they commit to provide at least 16 hours of volunteer service a month to the MPDC, supporting various administrative, operational and policing responsibilities. Level II Reserves wear an MPDC uniform but, unlike Level I Reserves, they are not armed. Now in its 56th year, the MPDC Reserve Corps continues to be an integral component of the Department, providing valuable assistance in handling major events as well as everyday policing duties. In his remarks, Chief Ramsey said that while the roles and responsibilities of the new officers may be different, “one thing isn’t different and that is our mission — to create safer, less fearful and better prepared neighborhoods throughout the District of Columbia. That mission — that overarching goal — is the same for each and every one of us who is fortunate enough to be a member of the Metropolitan Police Department,” he said.

## MPDC PREPARES FOR IMF/WORLD BANK MEETINGS

The Metropolitan Police Department will be fully mobilized — downtown and in DC neighborhoods — during the upcoming Spring Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank Group. The meetings will be held April 22-23 at the groups’ downtown DC headquarters, and some demonstrations against IMF and World Bank policies are expected. Work schedules and staffing deployments are being adjusted to ensure adequate police coverage for these events, as well as to maintain strong neighborhood patrols throughout the weekend. To support public safety operations outside the IMF/World Bank, the Department also plans to activate its Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) network, including the temporary activation of one additional camera at the MPDC Command Bus. The MPDC is working cooperatively with other government agencies in the District to ensure that any demonstrations remain safe and any property damage is minimized. It is anticipated that there will be street closings and some parking restrictions throughout the weekend around the IMF and World Bank buildings. Individuals coming to this particular area of downtown DC are encouraged to take Metro. Additional details about street closures and related public safety preparations for the IMF/World Bank event will be posted on the MPDC website.

## NEWS & NOTES

**Emancipation Day Schedule.** Most administrative offices of the MPDC will be closed on Monday, April 17, in honor of Emancipation Day in the District of Columbia. Neighborhood patrols and essential operational units will be fully staffed on the holiday. For details on the Emancipation Day celebration in DC, click on <http://dc.gov/mayor/emancipationDay/index.shtm>

**Smoking Ban Enforcement.** The DC Department of Health issued a statement this week clarifying that the DOH’s Food Protection Services Branch — and not the MPDC — is responsible for enforcement of the District’s new Smoke-Free Workplaces Law. To report possible violations of the law, individuals may call DOH at (202) 671-5000. The DOH also announced that it is developing informational materials and hosting two upcoming business roundtables in an effort to educate the community about the new law and its enforcement. For more information, contact Leila Abrar (202-442-9186) or Denise Grant (202-442-9140).

① For more information on volunteer Reserve Corps, please visit:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1242,q,547109.asp>

① For information on career opportunities for sworn officers in the MPDC, click on:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1230,q,538009.asp>

① Details on the MPDC’s CCTV system, including the locations of the 19 permanent cameras, are at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/cctv>

① For information about the IMF and World Bank meetings, go to:  
<http://www.imf.org/external/spring/2006/index.htm>

### DATA BOX

Homicides as of 4/14/06  
◆ 2006: 44  
◆ 2005: 52  
◆ % Change: -15.4%  
◆ Closure Rate: 47.7% (21 closures)

Adult Arrests week end. 4/8/06  
◆ Total: 916  
◆ Weapons: 25  
◆ Robbery: 5  
◆ Auto Theft: 20  
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 37  
◆ Narcotics: 157

Juvenile Activity week end. 4/8/06  
◆ Arrests: 42  
◆ Curfew Violators: 89  
◆ Truants: 79

Firearm Recoveries as of 4/12/06  
◆ April: 59  
◆ 2006 Total: 716

Traffic Fatalities as of 4/14/06  
◆ 2006: 12  
◆ 2005: 14  
◆ % Change: -14.3%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC’s Director of Corporate Communications, at [kevin.morison@dc.gov](mailto:kevin.morison@dc.gov). Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with [Crime-reports.com](http://Crime-reports.com).

**mpdc.dc.gov**